



The Great Lakes Alliance has proudly operated within US Club Soccer's National Premier League for the past nine years and is excited to continue delivering high-level, competitive youth soccer league play as part of the new team-based platform, National 1 (N1).

The Great Lakes Alliance has been named one of the first league operators for a groundbreaking new national competition, the National 1 League (N1), announced by US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer and set to launch in the 2026–27 season.

This new platform, National 1 League (N1), will serve as the top team-based league across both organizations, bringing together the National Premier Leagues (NPL) and the National League into a unified structure. The initiative marks a major shift in the youth soccer landscape, creating a more aligned and elevated competitive environment nationwide.

For the 2026–27 season, the Great Lakes Alliance will operate as a regional league for boys and girls from U10 through U19. Teams in the U10–U14 age groups will begin play in the fall, while U15–U19 teams will begin after the high school season.

The league will consist of two divisions: GLA_N1 and GLA Premier, across all age groups (U10–U19). Both divisions will be organized into conferences in most age groups, with teams from Ohio, West Virginia, Western New York, and Western Pennsylvania. Conferences will be geographically aligned to minimize travel.

U10–U14 Structure

Teams in the U10–U14 age groups will play a year-long league schedule. In addition to self-scheduled matches, GLA will host crossover weekends as follows:

U10–U12: Two fall league-wide required events and one spring league-wide required event

U13–U14: Two fall league-wide required events and one spring league-wide required event

During league-wide events:

- U10–U12 teams will play two games per day
- U13–U14 teams will play one game per day

At the conclusion of league play, the top four teams in each age group will advance to Championship Weekend. Semifinal winners will advance to the championship match. In rare cases of smaller divisions, the GLA reserves the right to advance two teams directly to the GLA Finals.

Cost: \$1,850 per team for the 2026–27 season

- Includes crossover event field rental (referee fees not included)

Fall League-wide Events Dates & Locations:

- September 12–13: Canton and Willoughby, Ohio
- September 26–27: Erie, Pennsylvania or Dayton, Ohio

Spring League-wide Events Dates & Locations:

- March 13-14: U10–U12 Canton, Ohio
- February 20-21 and March 20-21: U13–U14 Canton, Ohio

Participation in league-wide events is mandatory for all teams.

U15–U19 Structure

Teams in the U15–U19 age groups will play a 10–12 game schedule, consisting of a combination of showcase and self-scheduled matches.

GLA will host two College Showcase events:

- **Girls GLA_N1 College Showcase:** February 27–28
- **Boys GLA_N1 College Showcase:** March 6–7
- Teams will play one game per day during showcases
- Showcases are for both GLA_N1 and GLA Premier teams

At the conclusion of league play, the top four teams in each age group will advance to Championship Weekend. Semifinal winners will advance to the championship match. In rare cases of smaller divisions, the GLA reserves the right to advance two teams directly to the GLA Finals.

Cost: \$1,550 per team for the 2026–27 season

- Includes College Showcase field rental (referee fees not included)

Postseason

GLA Playoffs will be held at the Hall of Fame Village Sports Complex on June 5–6.

- **GLA_N1 Division Champions (U13–U19):** Advance to the 2026–27 ECNL Conference League Playoffs TBD
- **GLA Premier Division Champions (U13–U19):** Advance to Midwest Regionals in Libertyville, Illinois (late June)